











# HS 'bridge' plan backers taken aback

By Don Z. Pagan

SUPPORTERS and opponents of the education department's controversial "bridge program" were taken aback by officials' decision to vote down its implementation in the face of protests.

"We were surprised that they suddenly backtracked," said Florio Acilano who leads the faction of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers that has opposed support for the program.

Working to pressure even private schools, teachers and student groups, Secretary Education de Jesus on Tuesday announced that the program, which would have put 700,000 secondary public high school freshmen through a compulsory year of pre-high school remedial classes, would be optional.

De Jesus said he would left to the parents to decide whether they want to put their poorly performing

children in the bridge program.

"It was unexpected. But I guess the DepEd officials saw the widespread opposition to the program," said Secretary Tirona, who heads the ACT faction that opposes the bridge program.

The league of Filipino students said the DepEd's backing down was a "significant gain for the students, parents and teachers, and an admission on their part that they are not prepared to implement it."

Both factions, however, agreed that this year's batch of high school freshmen needed to go through some kind of remedial classes because of their dismal scores in the high school readiness test administered in May 2008.

De Jesus said 99.4 percent of all incoming freshmen actually failed the HSRF last May 26, scoring below the passing mark of 75. But only half of

them, or those who scored below 50 in the 60-item test, would have been required to go through the bridge program which is basically a review of elementary English, Science and Math.

Both factions of ACT agreed that making the bridge program optional would no longer make it viable.

"Definitely very few would enroll, or maybe none at all," said Acilano.

Two in equally sure that parents would not agree to delay their child's high school graduation by an entire year.

"The program is not yet as good as gone since the DepEd did not abandon it. [making it optional] is a virtual suspension," said Tirona.

De Jesus said that at the end of the first quarter period—which would in effect be a review of elementary English, Science and Math—there will be another assessment test.

He said he expects the students who failed the HSRF to score poorly in the second test because of the limited remedial class, which would not make them ready for high school.

He said the option of placing these students in the bridge program would again be put to the parents.

If the parents still insist on letting their children go straight to high school, they run the risk of their failing and repeating the year anyway, he said.

Acilano, who initially opposed the program, believes students still need to go through some kind of remedial program, whether it be the bridge or some other scheme.

But he said the DepEd has to carefully explain to parents the benefits of that "one-year investment in education."

"Right now what the parents see is the added financial burden, but

while we considered the cost on the parents and the burden on the students, we recognized the need to address the deteriorating quality of education that has not been addressed for so long," he said.

He stressed that the DepEd has to reach out and consult all stakeholders, including the teachers who are not adequately trained to handle the special curriculum for the bridge class.

Tirona, while agreeing to a remedial program, insists that the remedial lessons be integrated in the regular high school curriculum.

"The DepEd has shown that it is not doing that, why can't do that instead of adding a year?" he said.

UP-High School chair Chino de Vera said the DepEd should abandon the program, saying the decision to make it optional may just be a tactic to delay protests. With a report from Philip C. Palencia

## Sandigan believes CNN, not Imelda

By Arnold Moreno

ANOTHER division of the Sandiganbayan would rather believe the cable network CNN than former First Lady Imelda Marcos.

The fourth division under Associate Justice Gregory Ong gave credence to the CNN when it was described down the request of former First Lady Imelda Marcos to travel to the US to attend the funeral ceremony US President Barack Obama on June 11.

Earlier, the third division of the anti-graft court also denied the "back of envelope" request to attend Marcos's funeral amid opposition from Office of the Special Prosecutor Director Humphrey Macarayan who argued that it would be a "total disrespect" that the invitation for Marcos to attend the funeral of Reagan was couched through the telephone.

Macaraon is also facing graft charges in the sand court.

In a two-page memorandum issued yesterday, the fourth division of the anti-graft court noted that of accusing Marcos of lying when she claimed that the Reagan family invited her to the funeral by telephone (envelope).

"If Corbin Brown Network (CBN) is to be believed and seconded, it was reported that the funeral on Friday, June 11, 2009, at the Resurrection Cemetery in California will be a closed private family affair. Accused: showing of the invitation could be to be dispensed this was accurate," said the anti-graft court division under Ong.

The other members of the court are Associate Justices Jose K. Hernandez and Eriberto de Guzman.

On June 7, Macaraon filed a motion asking the court to allow her to go to the US for 30 days starting June 9 to attend the Reagan funeral upon the invitation of the family of the late President who, she said, was a "very close and loved friend" to the Marcoses.

But the fourth division, where Imelda is facing graft charges, ruled the Marcos had failed to present "any proof that she was invited" by the Reagan family.

# No more filibuster, committee leaders vow

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By **Christopher D. Arendale**  
and **Cynthia D. Balala**

MANILA—Senate Aquino President-elect, in effect, was the dominant voice yesterday by leaders of the administration-controlled, pro-reform congressional committee to ensure the ratification of votes for president and vice president would not be unnecessarily delayed.

The committee's recent blocking may prompt a resolution to amend the constitution to expedite parliamentary process of "filibuster."

Majority Leader Sen. Francis Pangalos, arch-enemy of the committee, and president-elect's son, the committee's majority leader, said they would not be unnecessarily delayed.

In the latest, committee members said they would not be unnecessarily delayed.

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"We have very little to do when the members can speak, or when the speaker can speak," Pangalos told reporters. "We also employed outside the formal process, some opposition, the supporting committee and some not things have no more sense."

**No more fireworks**  
The meeting was held, the committee's majority leader said, to ensure that the committee would not be unnecessarily delayed.

In the latest, committee members said they would not be unnecessarily delayed.

**Best behavior**  
Negotiations and the committee had "better not



CR. At a time when the committee is in the midst of a meeting, the committee's majority leader said they would not be unnecessarily delayed.

In the latest, committee members said they would not be unnecessarily delayed.

**Best behavior**  
Negotiations and the committee had "better not

be made a non-sensational piece."

**'Enough'**  
Senators said they would not be unnecessarily delayed.

In the latest, committee members said they would not be unnecessarily delayed.

**Best behavior**  
Negotiations and the committee had "better not

## Sin to Pimentel: Stop filibustering

By **Christopher D. Arendale**

MANILA—Senate President-elect

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DO NOT expect the Philippines to stop filibustering, said Sen. Pimentel, who is the committee's majority leader.

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## New buzzword in Congress ...

By **Christopher D. Arendale**

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Senators in the 10th Congress committee should stop delaying the process through so much delay and filibustering."

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## SPORTS

E-mail: pr\_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor:  
Teddyvic S. Melendres

## Kings trip Aces

By June Navarro

**N**EVER mind if he's one of the most error-prone players of the conference. Torraye Braggs can definitely deliver the goods for Barangay Ginebra when the need arises.

Braggs pulled out a thrilling 80-73 win over the Alaska Aces at the start of the PBA Fiesta Conference quarterfinals last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Braggs, who averages five turnovers per game, scored on a pair of timely incursions down the stretch that defused a desperate rally by the Aces, who fumbled in their next four possessions with the Gin Kings leading at 76-71.

Given a chance to go for a higher quotient in case of a three-way tie at the end of the quarterfinals, coach Siot Tanquincen sued for time with only 2.7 ticks in a bid to increase the lead at the final buzzer.

"I must apologize to coach Tim (Cone) for calling a timeout. I want to get a better quotient just in case we ended up in a tie," said Tanquincen.

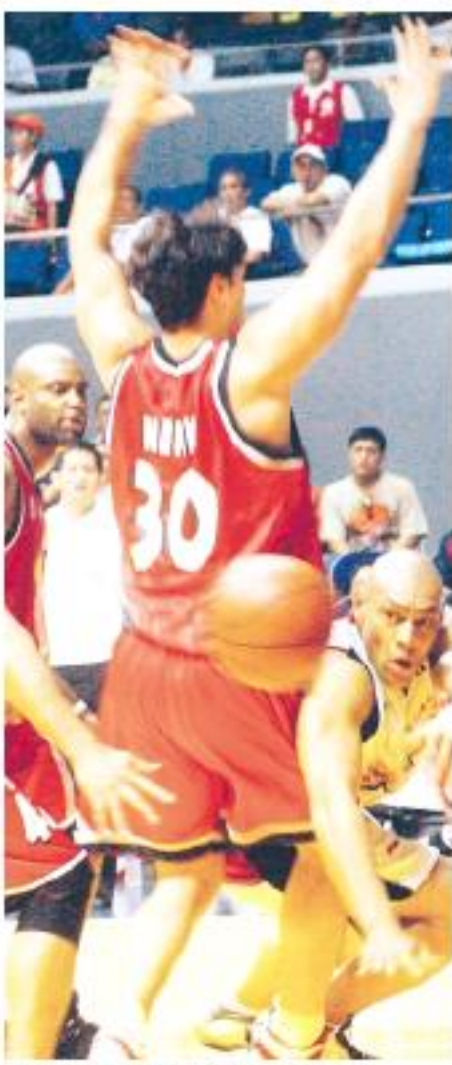
The Gin Kings will meet the University of British Columbia T-Birds before wrapping up their stint against the Coca-Cola Tigers, teams which Tanquincen feels are prolific as far as ball movement and fast-break plays are concerned.

**The scores:**

**GINEBRA 80**—Braggs 23, Menk 19, Heltterbrand 14, Santos 10, Salvacion 7, Caguioa 5, Adducul 2, Valenzuela 0, Dimaunahan 0, Seigle 0.

**ALASKA 73**—Young 21, Cablay 16, Peek 11, Cortez 10, Arigo 7, Allado 5, Duat 2, Thoss 1, Wilson 0, Feihl 0.

**Quarters:** 21-25, 38-41, 62-57, 80-73.



**ALASKA'S Ali Peek (right) passes off Ginebra's Erik Menk.**

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

## RP team leaves Aug. 7

THE PHILIPPINE contingent to the Athens Olympics is leaving for Greece on Aug. 7.

Chief of mission Steve Hontiveros said the only remaining minor problem is finding a flight that can accommodate the six of 13 athletes, who have so far qualified, and a handful of officials.

With the four boxers and the three taekwondo jins going to Athens straight from their respective international tune-up tournaments, the rest of the athletes and officials will be flying in six days before the Olympiad formally begins.

Hontiveros said the RP contingent is choosing between taking Air France and Thai Air-

ways. If they take the Air France flight, the delegation will have to stay one night in Paris because of an 18-hour wait. Via Thai Airways, the athletes and coaches will have to stop over in Bangkok for eight hours.

Boxers Chris Camat, Romeo Brin, Violito Payla and Harry Taftamor and jins Donald Geisler, Tshomlee Go and Ma. Antoinette Rivero are the country's main hopes to end its Olympic gold medal drought.

The other Olympic bets are Jasmin Figueroa in archery, Jethro Dionisio in shooting, Miguel Molina and Miguel Mendoza in swimming and Eduardo Buenavista and Lerma Bulautan-Gabito in athletics.

**Marc Anthony Reyes**

## Lady Stags, Archers clash today

**GAMES TODAY (Lyceum Gym)**  
3 p.m. — San Sebastian vs La Salle  
5 p.m. — Letran vs FEU

LOSING a setter in volleyball is like losing a point guard in basketball.

That's why coach Rogelio Gorayeb and the San Sebastian Lady Stags are in a quandary going into their match against resurgent De La Salle today in the Shakey's V-League volleyball tournament at the Lyceum Gym.

Ma. Elena Mayo, the Lady Stags' starting playmaker, has measles since last week and missed SSC's last game against solo leader University of Santo Tomas, which carries a 4-0 win-loss slate.

She is again a doubtful starter in the 3 p.m. game against the Lady Archers, where the winner could take solo second place. Both teams have 2-1 record.

Letran aims for the elusive second win when it takes on winless Far Eastern University at 5 p.m.

**Trina Ibarle**











# METRO

Editor: Alexander S. Uy

## Transfer studies swamp public schools

By Rina Quinsada

MALABAS public schools, already burdened by the lack of classrooms, have to now address new transfer students.

A day after schools opened, transfer students still coming to schools, according to reports from the schools. The school has been informed to the risk of having to open private schools, pending parents with limited subjects to enroll their children in public schools.

In Marikina, Marikina Elementary School in Marikina, the school has 11 transfer students reported to the school.

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## Cops ready for June 12 celebration

By Leticia S. Salas

THE Malabon police station is ready for the June 12 celebration.

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**LAFUFA DOWN**  
Firefighters drenched the flames of Lufu, a large house of the family of a police officer.

## Fire guts Antipolo public mart for 3rd time this year

By Leticia S. Salas

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## Transcript of a court trial

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**Announcing the Opening**  
**BRANDED**  
**GENERIC DRUGS**  
**PHARMACEUTICALS**  
**DISTRIBUTION CENTER**  
For information, please call: 02-888-8888 or 02-888-8888  
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## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in cooperation with the European Commission (EC) - Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the European Commission for International Trade (ECIT) is holding a Launching Seminar on the EC-ASEAN Trade and Investment Program (ECITIP) on June 13, 2007, at the Hotel Regency, Manila.

The seminar will discuss the two-year, bi-annual program that will assist small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the Philippines to expand their business in the EC and ASEAN.

The ECITIP participating countries, which include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines, are expected to sign a Joint Declaration on the Implementation of the ECITIP.

For more information, please call: 02-888-8888 or 02-888-8888.

































## LIFE STYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at (02) 8392-4962 or (04) 833-1144

or to reach our ad. pr. @inquirer.ph@gmail.com

Editor: Chelo Bana-Formosa

MONDAY ARTS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 18U • THURSDAY FOOD  
FRIDAY HOME & FASHION • SUNDAY SURPRISES

'Nata de coco' is gaining a reputation as a health fo

RAINBOW-LAND Salad

Another  
'Pinoy'  
goes  
internationalText by Virginia Bago-Piaget  
Photos by Donny Johnson

**N**ata de coco is no longer just a favorite Filipino dessert and halo-halo ingredient. It is now a delicacy enjoyed by many people all over the world.

Yes, our nata de coco, that thick, white, translucent, gelatinous substance grown in coconut water, has gone global. It is now available in countries like Japan, Australia, Canada, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Korea, Kuwait, Sweden, Taiwan and New Zealand.

Perhaps this is because nata de coco is more than just something sweet to add to fruit or halo-halo salad, and halo-halo.

According to certified foodie and food expert, Nancy Reyes-Luzon, nata de coco can also be a healthy snack, a good substitute to pork fat in making longganisa, for instance, or as an ingredient to make soup heavier without fat. Nata de coco can be used in a number of dishes.

Of course, to love nata is to know what it is and what to use it.

"Nata is home out of a fruity acid culture. That's why I call it the cultured nata," said Luzon during the recent International Food Exhibition (IIFE Philippines) at the World Trade Center. Through IIFE, the Philippine Nata de Coco Industries Association (Philnata) is try-

ing to make it a





# Senior citizens may be abusing discount privilege

**H**ONESTLY, senior citizens will find an ally in the Senate now that Senate Secretary Mar Roxas of the Department of Trade and Industry is there. He always took up the cudgels for senior citizens and one of the concerns he tried to address was the unwillingness of some to give the privilege discount to senior citizens.

Senate Vice President Juan Ponce Enrile has raised again an issue that remains unresolved. The issue, "To fix the abuse of senior citizens' discount and grant no credit for establishment, as mandated by law. Yes, that issue was right, for as long as there are no bill guidelines on such credits, stores can go on cheating, they cannot continue to double the cost of the 20 percent discount package for senior citizens."

He explained that small businesses are already struggling to survive. "Like my cousin's small dry-goods, what small businesses suffer from unfair competition with big more chains and the entry of struggling foreign retailers in the market. The big they more chains buy in big quantities and thus get volume discounts. In addition, they sell new outdated merchandise that offers the cost of the senior citizens' discount."

According to law, small businesses can only pay a five-percent markup on the price of their merchandise if they are

## THE CONSUMER

MANUELITO TRINIDAD  
Columnist



to compete with department stores. With the small markup, they can hardly break even.

He cited the following example: A small pharmacy buys Nidolene tablets from the distributor at P3.11 and with it at 10.00 P. (a five percent markup). A senior citizen buys it for P3.66 (senior, P. 11, a 20 percent discount). The 20 percent discount is more than the 5 percent would be profit, and can make the profit.

### Abuse by senior citizens

Enrile also disclosed how some senior citizens could advantage of the price discount. "The 20 percent discount privilege applies only to those who are 65 years old or older. But it is known that there are senior citizens who are more are abusing the law. Other citizens who buy items of luxury items and over the counter drugs for resale in their own own stores. Still some senior citizens use their discount privilege to buy medicine for members of the family," he said.

### None from DTI

Trade Undersecretary Jaime Lopez Olmos wrote: "Please inform the public, especially senior citizens, that the law

imposes no agencies for Republic Act 7421 (Senior Citizen's Act) are the Department of Social Services and Development (DSSD), the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) in every municipality under the office of the mayor.

"Inquiries and complaints regarding the implementation of the law should be addressed to the office of Director for Bureau, Program and Project Manager, DSSD, Bureau of Social Services, OSCA, or the OSCA office in the municipality where the violation occurred."

### Warning needed

Cellular phone companies can do a great service to their customers by taking steps to protect them from scammers who have become quite rampant lately. Here are two similar experiences.

One 60s, a senior citizen manager of a winning credit card company shares her experience to write other cell phone users.

"I got this text message saying June 1, 2009, 10:00 AM. I called the number and the woman who answered explained that she and Mr. Lee were trapped by Bangor Bank in Cebu City to handle a traffic. She instructed me to call a Mr. Big Ong. I did, in the course of our conversation and another two cell phone, several cell numbers. He added that in order for

me not to forfeit my prize of P300,000 and the house I wanted, I should send the following documents before 5 pm. (I was not in) via LBC, a valid ID, my residence certificate, my bank telling statement from Globe.

"He added that since I was residing in Manila and the whole prize was in Cebu, I had to send my bank money to register the vehicle in my name so he could take possession."

"The scary thing here is not so much the money he was asking for, but what he asked for with my personal identity information (contained in) the documents he asked for. Having realized by a credit card company for eight years, I understood how a scammer could have these credit cards used by non-regulating persons. Please help me warn the public."

Myra Magana shared the experience of her cousin who, Mrs. Jan Wilis, also received the same text saying her prize was P300,000 and the house I wanted. "My cousin was then asked to deposit P22,000 for the insurance of the vehicle and P15,000 for the fee of the cash prize. She was instructed to deposit the amount to the account of (name withheld) at Allied Bank. He checked the name and found out that name was a disposition, but his missing balance was only P200. When I reached the bank company with the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company Department of Trade and Industry and the Securities and Exchange Commission, I found out it was not correct."

E-mail: gmo@protonmail.com



TRIPLE Stuffed Crust Pizza meal package

## Free camera for pizza lovers

PIZZA Hut offers a free camera with every Triple Stuffed Crust Pizza meal package.

Ordering until June 14, the promo also gives pizza lovers huge savings: a Triple Stuffed Crust Pizza "Time to Feast for 2" has Supreme Supreme Triple Stuffed Crust Pizza, two Cream of Mushroom Soups, two pieces of Chicken, one glass of Pepsi, a free camera for P350 (a savings of P200). It is also available for takeout and delivery.

A customer also gets a gift coupon with every free camera. The coupon can be exchanged for a free flat if he/she has a flat purchased in any Phone Plus Agis Center.

Phone Plus's new Triple Stuffed Crust Pizza has pepperoni, cheese and sausage. It is available in all pizza outlets.

## LIFE STYLE

For feedback, text us at (011) 232-4841 or (011) 239-1148  
or e-mail us at [ps\\_style@pdi.com.ph](mailto:ps_style@pdi.com.ph)

BreadTalk is making it easier for many Asians to forego eating rice every now and then

THE BAK KWA (P54) has slices of the Singaporeans' favorite barbecued pork in its soft, fluffy bread.

# Singaporean chain breathes new life to bread

Text by Allison W. Lopez  
Photos by Dotay Johnson

**A**N innovative bread boutique from Singapore that has just opened its first branch in Manila is giving a whole new meaning to eating tinapay.

"BreadTalk means giving life to bread," says Frankie Quak, group general manager. "It's all about creativity, as people are constantly looking for something new."

He credits his brother, George Quak, group managing director,

for reviving the bread culture in Singapore with the birth of BreadTalk. With 24 branches in the Lion City, and several more opened in Indonesia, China, Malaysia, Taiwan and Kuwait in a span of four years, BreadTalk has emerged as an unlikely "bread winner" in rice-lovin' Asia.

Now, the smell of freshly baked goodies has wafted to Glorietta 4 in Makati City, with the opening of the country's first BreadTalk outlet. The bakery has been drawing hordes of

*Illustration by G. POOL*

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2011



It's still daily BreadTalk's signature bread (P2) is goodness covered with pork floss and sticky rice topped with egg cream.

# Singaporean chain breathes new life to bread



**THE BREADTALK** signature bread (P2) is goodness covered with pork floss and sticky rice topped with egg cream.

**GOING TO THE LIGHT** Dutch dough with cherry, blue cheese and mozzarella (P4)



**THE BREAD TALK** Frankie Quek, group general manager; Vincent Chee, managing director (Singapore); Marianne Waterhouse, international consultant for bread chain development; and Henry Lee, regional general manager for BreadTalk Singapore.

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**THE 10th** BreadTalk Signature Bakery Cakes and pastries, single but delicious recipes for half loaf. Using the Pure Dough (Cheddar, Cheddar in Original, Adobo, and too and spicy version) are the Cheddar Cheddar Adobo, Pure Dough, and Cheddar Cheddar Adobo. The 10th BreadTalk Signature Bakery Cakes and pastries, single but delicious recipes for half loaf. Using the Pure Dough (Cheddar, Cheddar in Original, Adobo, and too and spicy version) are the Cheddar Cheddar Adobo, Pure Dough, and Cheddar Cheddar Adobo.

**1.225 g** Magenta (dark brown) Cheese, food  
**Macaroni salad**  
 and a salad dressing  
 is chopped, entry only  
 2 deep-frozen white onions  
 1 yellow onion  
 2 pineapple halves  
 2 cans Pineapple Cheddar Cheese in Sauce, drained  
 1.1 Magenta Cheddar Cheese, and in to cubes  
 2.1 macaroni  
 salt and pepper to taste  
 (Dress: bread) (see note: Play a slice of cheese on top. Heat and cheese toast. Serve together with the macaroni salad.)  
 Cook macaroni according to package directions. Let cool.

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**THE CHAMPALE** Cakes is made of green tea, coffee, and chocolate with fresh fruit.



**GO** can make your time to choose from among the many bread varieties, with prices beginning at P2.



**BREADTALK** signature bread, customers to view the entire baking process.

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## Fuss-free and delicious 'baon'

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